

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A container [(1)] made of a thermoplastic material and provided with a bottom [(3)] of the “champagne bottom” type comprising a downwardly projecting central pimple [(4)], a peripheral bearing region [(5)] and an intermediate arch [(6)] provided with ribs [(7)] radiating from the central pimple as far as the bearing region,

~~characterized by~~ comprising the following combination of arrangements:

- the central pimple [(4)] is in the shape of a downwardly projecting circular plateau,
- the ribs [(7)] extend from the central pimple [(4)] as far as the bearing region [(5)]

but exclude this region,

- the ribs [(7)] are of dihedral shape with a V-shaped cross section the mid-plane [(7c)] of which is substantially parallel to the axis [(1a)] of the container and follow on from one another without discontinuity, and

- the ribs [(7)] have a longitudinal profile which is curved, the valley bottoms [(7d)] of the ribs, in their region adjacent to the central pimple [(4)], coming up higher than the base of said central pimple and the valley bottoms [(7d)] and crests [(7e)] of the ribs, in their regions adjacent to the bearing region, having curvatures which blend gradually into a continuous

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rounded feature with no break in curvature immediately above the bearing region ~~[[5]]~~ so that the latter is substantially flat and continuous over its entire extent,

whereby the rigidity of the bottom can be increased while at the same time its thickness can be reduced, including in the bearing region.

2. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that it is~~
said container being made of PET.

3. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2, characterized in that it~~
is said container being a bottle ~~[[1]]~~ the overall shape of which is approximately that of a cylinder of revolution and ~~in that~~ the bearing region ~~[[5]]~~ is annular and substantially coaxial with the central pimple ~~[[4]]~~, the dihedral ribs ~~[[7]]~~ extending radially.

4. (Currently Amended) The container as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that it~~
~~comprises~~ said container comprising ribs ~~[[7]]~~ each having the same angular breadth.